

# TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

## MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** May 3, 2022

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular monthly water board meeting

**Place:** H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

**Water Board Members Present:** Donna Gilson, Chairwoman

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

**Absent:** Doug Schwalm

**Others in Attendance:**

Supervisor Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

Mary Yerdon, Water Department Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Donna Gilson leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rob Goodsell made a motion to approve the water board minutes. It was seconded by Krista Fox. All were in favor.

- The first 150 hydrant flags have been delivered and installed. The second set of hydrant flags have been delivered but are not yet installed.
- Tree Work at the Schoeller well site is going to be completed using highway workers, water department employees and TRC Tree Services (3 of the 5 areas). It will take one full week to clean one of the three areas. The other 2 areas will be bid-TCR Tree Service will do all the ariel work. They will start clearing the original 14" water main as soon as possible (hopefully with applied for funding from Oswego County). There will be highway workers and all water department workers to complete this. It should take 2 full days. Highway workers will receive an extra \$1.00 per hour while working for the water department. Their hours will be billed to the water department by the Highway Superintendent.
- The Road from the yellow gate at the entrance to the Schoeller Well Site has no estimate yet. For the road to the fifth well it will cost approximately \$50,000.
- The CO RT 62 "rock drill" is about \$200,000. It will come out of the Water District 5 project funding.

- S. Daysville Road and Town Road will be the last two roads to finish. Restoration hasn't started on any roads yet. The contractor (WD Malone) determines when and where the construction crews will work.
- Trailer update: once the floor is painted, the trailer will be ready to stock with the supplies that have been purchased.
- There was a lengthy discussion on expenses vs. revenues in the water department. The cost to generate water was estimated by the B&L Engineer and the Town Supervisor at a cost of \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons. We currently charge \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons. The water Board recommended looking into renegotiating the contracts with MHC Brennen, Schoeller and Sandy Creek within the next 30-45 days. *Rob Goodsell made the motion-Donna Gilson seconded it. All were in favor.* The water board also recommended raising EDU rates and water use rates as necessary to properly maintain the system and keep it functioning properly. *Krista Fox made this motion and Rob Goodsell seconded it. All agreed.*
- Another area that needs immediate attention is the cost of tapping the water main for new installations. Prices for parts are going up and changing every month. The standard rates are no longer practical. The water board recommends allowing the water supervisor to set the rates on a case-by-case basis. The criteria would be the cost of the tapping parts, the size of the tap, whether it's a direction drill or a push under the road, and the cost of the excavating. The current set price does not adequately address tap size and problems during excavating. For example, the current price for tapping parts for a 3/4" tap is approximately \$530.00; the average excavation cost is approximately \$620.00 and three workers. The water district does not break even-the extra expense should not be passed on to all other water department customers. A good example is the two-2" taps that were just installed at a cost of \$6,100.37. *Rob Goodsell made this motion to give the water supervisor the authority to set and change tapping fees-Donna Gilson seconded it. All agreed.*
- The water tank must be painted or the inspection in 2024 will fail. That should be worked into the budget.
- It was also noted that our two water operators are eligible for retirement in 4-5 years. Our system is very complex and large. We have 103 miles of pipe, 720 hydrants and 1300 valves that must be maintained. Supervisor Novak said there is a severe need for an extra person. The routine maintenance along with the regular work cannot be adequately performed with the current staff. There also needs to be time to train a new operator before the current operators retire.
- 82 Storz valves have arrived and started to be installed. They will be placed near large commercial businesses and dense populations first-rather than in vacant lots. This will be worked on as time permits.
- Scriba Electric received the bid for the new generator at the Schoeller Well Site. The town board accepted the bid. It will take about 44 weeks to receive it. The battery was replaced on the current generator, and it seems to be starting automatically. The valve gaskets still need replaced.
- Insurance on the hydrants should be investigated. There have been instances where a fire hydrant is severely damaged and needs to be replaced. If it is damaged and there

is no police report and no one knows who damaged it, it costs thousands of dollars to replace. It may be worth the investment to place insurance on them.

At 9:15 Krista Fox made a motion to close the meeting. Donna Gilson seconded it.

The next water board meeting is scheduled for June 7 at 6pm in the Jury Room of the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk